

APRIL 15, 1965

COPYRIGHT

## CIA Needs Experienced Head

If Adm. William F. Raborn is confirmed as the new chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, he faces major tasks in restoring public confidence in the department and of attaining for it a measure of prestige.

Whether Raborn is the best man to do the job is open to question.

A distinguished career in the Navy and some notable credits, including development of the Polaris missile system, do not necessarily qualify him to direct the ticklish and complicated assignments of the undercover agency whose blunders have frequently had it under investigation.

"The Invisible Government," as the CIA is known, has been in business for 18 years. In that time it would seem that it would have developed persons capable of taking over direction of the complex and mysterious network.

Raborn would bring a famous military name to the CIA but he has no experience whatsoever in intelligence work.

While the details of CIA operations remain secret, its primary function is to keep the President informed on all matters in which the United States is involved or interested.

It is the gatherer and coordinator of in-

telligence for the National Security Council and operates at the Council's direction.

Its record is not impressive and in contrast with the intelligence systems of other countries it frequently appears amateurish.

The CIA was accused of monumental mismanagement in the Bay of Pigs debacle, a project in which it helped organize and train refugees for the invasion in which everything went wrong.

The CIA had a hand in the overthrow of the president of Guatemala in 1954 and was accused of participating in the ousting of the premier of Iran in 1953.

It has frequently been caught napping by developments of vital concern to the United States. Dissatisfaction with the CIA's work prior to the assassination of Ngo Dinh Diem led to recall of the CIA chief in Saigon.

It lacks the skill of the British intelligence service and has been a bad second to the spy apparatus of the Viet Cong.

Congress would be justifiably curious in wanting to know why the revitalizing job the agency obviously needs should be put under the direction of a person unfamiliar with any of its operations.